

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-09

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DRAFTED BY NEA/PAB:ASCHIFFERDECKER:MRC

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COMMERCE/MEPD:JSMITH (SUBS)

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R 211909Z APR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KABUL

INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BMEP, AF

SUBJECT: U.S. FIRM TO STUDY RAILROAD SYSTEM FOR AFGHANISTAN

1. WASHINGTON OFFICE OF CENTRAL TECHNOLOGY, INC. TELEPHONED NEA/PAB APRIL 18 REQUESTING INFORMATION PERTAINING TO RAILROAD STUDY ON AFGHANISTAN. MR. L'ENFANT OFCT EXPLAINED THAT GOA HAD CHOSEN FIRM FROM SHORT LIST OF CONSULTANTS PROVIDED BY UNDP/NEW YORK TO SUBMIT PRELIMINARY STUDY BY APRIL 30. REPORT WOULD CONSIST OF (1) GENERAL ROUTE STUDY OF MAIN LINE FROM ISLAM QALA TO HERAT, KANDAHAR AND KABUL, WITH BRANCHES FROM KANDAHAR TO ZAHEDAN AND KANDAHAR-SPIN BOLDAK; (2) ANALYSIS OF PRESENT TRANSPORT SYSTEM AND FUTURE NEEDS. CENTRAL TECHNOLOGY HAS PERFORMED CONSULTING WORK FOR IRAN AND MAINTAINS OFFICE IN TEHRAN.

2. DESKOFF GAVE L'ENFANT GENERAL BRIEFING ON SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN, REFERRING HIM TO OTHER SOURCES IN WASHINGTON, INCLUDING COMMERCE, IBRD AND IMF, AS WELL AS TOFISHBACH-MOORE OF DALLAS AND IECO OF SAN FRANCISCO AS FIRMS PRESENTLY OPERATING IN COUNTRY AND FAMILIAR WITH WORKING CONDITIONS. ALSO URGED THAT HE SEND SOMEONE TO KABUL

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FROM TEHRAN OFFICE TO OBTAIN NEEDED DATA. HE TOOK DOWN

NAME OF WILLIAM RAU OF EMBASSY AND SAID SOMEONE MIGHT BE
IN TOUCH.

3. L'ENFANT AGREED THAT THIS WOULD HAVE TO BE "QUICK
AND DIRTY" STUDY IN VIEW OF SHORT-FUSE DEADLINE. FROM
THIS AND RECENT EMBASSY REPORTING ON VARIOUS INDUSTRIAL
PROJECTS, IT SEEMS OBVIOUS THAT URGENCY OF THIS STUDY
RELATED TO GOA DESIRE FOR MORE SPECIFIC FINANCIAL
COMMITMENT FROM GOI DURING PRESIDENT DAOUD'S FORTHCOMING
VISIT TO TEHRAN. KISSINGER

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